

COCA TIMES

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COIN OPERATED COLLECTOR'S ASSOCIATION

PHOENIX, AZ

Eric and Teresa Johnson

RALEIGH, NC

Susan Beard

2009 Gatherings... Alive and Entertaining!

HOUSTON, TX

Craig and Doreen Bierman

**SAN FRANCISCO
2009 CONVENTION**

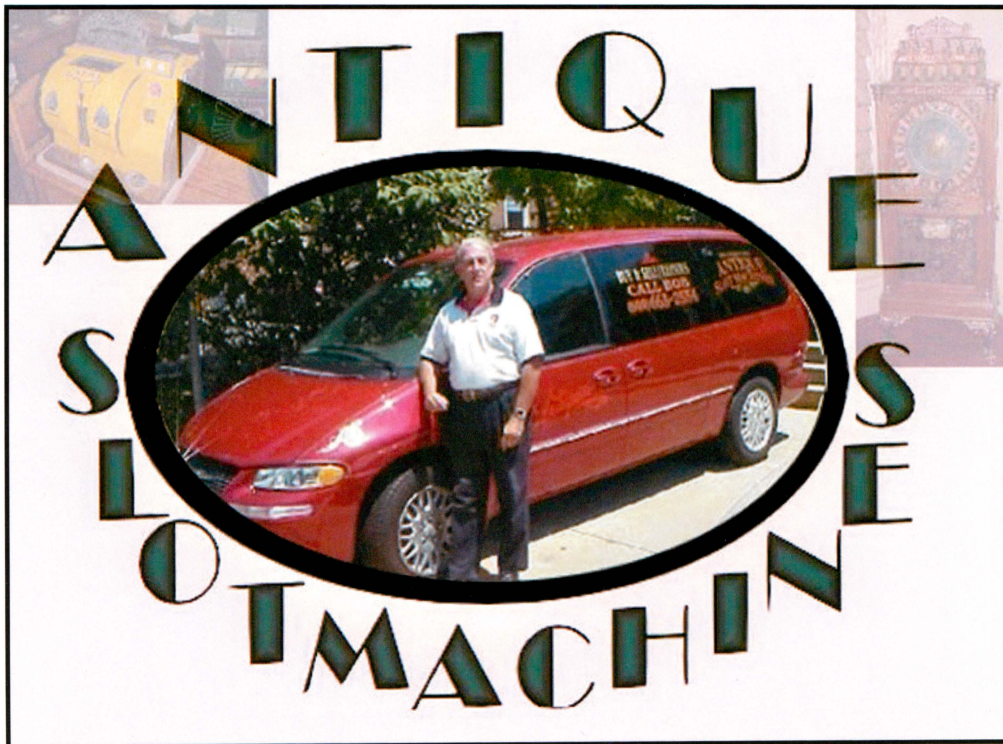
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Message from Our President...

Message from our President

It's hard for me to believe that it has been four years since I was elected President of COCA. This will be my twelfth and last President's report. I hope that you will continue to give the same great support that I received these last four years to the incoming executive board. My sincere thanks go to my co-officers, committee chairmen, convention chairmen, local gathering chairmen and those who work diligently on the COCA Times Magazine and our website.

We are approaching 700 members and continue to grow! Thanks to your input and support, COCA has become an even greater value and resource to our hobby and its enthusiasts. I am sure that the new President and all of the officers will strive to make us even better. Plans are underway for a total makeover of our website. We hope to make it a site that you will visit often for the latest coin-op news and information, as well as create one of the best places to buy and sell coin-op on the internet.

Our annual convention was held in San Francisco this summer. Be sure to check out the review and pictures in this issue. Our next convention will be in North Carolina, July 23-25, 2010. Full details and registration forms are in this issue. We also had very successful local gatherings in Arizona, North Carolina, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Texas (pictures and recaps in this issue). Thanks to all of the hosts for these great coin-op social events. Our Texas gathering at Craig and Doreen Bierman's home resulted in 30 new members-WOW! There are more photos of these events on our website, coinopclub.org.

Our next meeting will be on Friday, November 13, at the Hilton, St. Charles IL. The cash bar will open at 5:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 5:30 and the meeting and election of officers at 6. Tim LaGanke will be our guest speaker. Buffet dinner cost is \$15 per person. Contact Marsha Blau for our new menu details and reservations (414) 352-7623, Foxsnake@aol.com).

I have been fortunate to receive help from many of you during these past four years. You have made my job an easy one. Thank you for all of your hard work, phone calls, e-mails, handshakes and hugs. I hope that I may return the favors soon.

Bill Petrochuk
COCA President



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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: JANUARY 8, 2010

San Francisco Convention 2009

Our 6th Annual Convention was held in San Francisco July 17th thru 19TH

We were met upon arrival at the San Bruno Howard Johnson Hotel by Chairman Bill Howard. The hotel, owned by fellow convention planner Joe Welch, was newly remodeled and offered a very friendly staff.

On Friday afternoon we went by motor coach to downtown Frisco for a walking tour. First stop was Bill's condo at the art deco Hamilton Hotel. Bill showed us a few of his treasures and then took us to The Olympic Flame Restaurant for a hearty dinner. We strolled through the center of the city after dinner as Bill pointed out the sites. Our tour ended with a walk through the Grand Palace Hotel and a trip back to San Bruno. An auction was held that evening at Ho Jo's. Most of the coin-op pieces offered at auction were sold, including a rare "Legal" cast iron trade stimulator. Bill Howard served as auctioneer and co-planner Carl Lepiane helped keep things organized.

We toured the collections of Carl Lepiane and Joe Welch on Saturday. Carl with his wife Cece and Joe were gracious hosts. It was a humbling experience; in addition to seeing hundreds of rare machines and other great collectables, we were treated to lunch. We went back into the city Saturday afternoon for a ferry ride to Sausalito. The "last boat back" returned us to town. Most then went down to Fisherman's Wharf for a tour of the Arcade at Pier 45. Hundreds of machines both new and old were available there for play. It was noisy and fun and we finished our day with a seafood dinner and stroll around the wharf area.

We journeyed back to the Palace Hotel Sunday morning for brunch and a trip to the Cliff House. We enjoyed watching the fishermen, surfers and birds as we said goodbye to the ocean, San Francisco, and good friends.

Bill, Carl and Joe had a goal of providing the club with a convention near an expensive city while maintaining an affordable price. They also knew that the city would provide the backdrop for individuals to explore and appreciate the area. Most attending took advantage of that idea, took tours and got to see many of the great sites in the greater San Francisco area.

Thank you Bill, Carl, and Joe for your hard work and outstanding hospitality.



COCA is Alive and Entertaining!

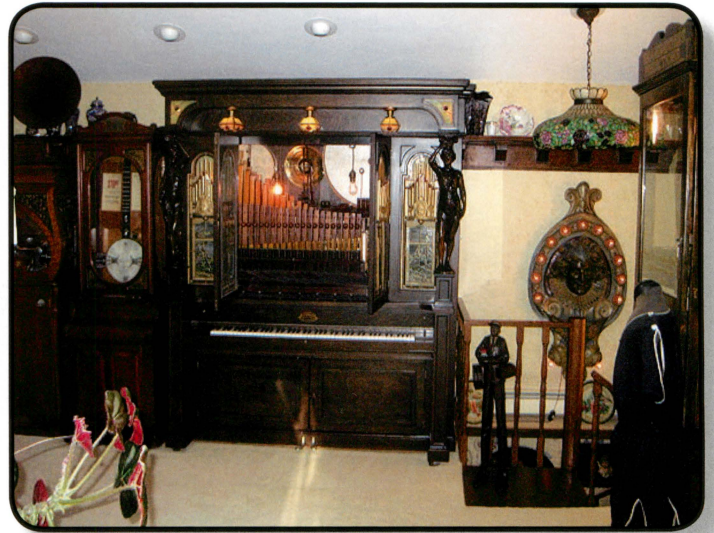
Since the Spring Issue We Have Had Mini Conventions in Ohio, North Carolina, Texas, Wisconsin, and Arizona.

I was fortunate to attend two of the above mentioned, but heard all were great!

CLEVELAND, OH

Mike and Marion Gorski know how to make people happy. Give them some food and show them something they have never seen before.

Had a great day and a fun time!



HOUSTON, TX

Houston's first COCA gathering July 11, was a success. Craig & Doreen Bierman were the host, and had 67 people show up from mostly the Houston area. We did not advertise it and only talked about having it about 30 days before the party so we feel it was a great asset to COCA. There were only 4 current members present but we signed up 30 new members that took Texas from 18 current members to now 48 strong and it made Texas the second largest state only trailing California. Ken Rubin was there, and talked about the hobby. There was plenty to eat and drink, we also had a swap meet with lots of good things to buy.





RALEIGH, NC

The North Carolina local gathering was hosted by Susan Beard this spring. Susan has a large collection of coin-op, along with lots of country store and more fun stuff. We dined on barbecue and lots of great food brought by the many members that attended. Her southern hospitality is unequalled. Susan's home will be available for tour at the upcoming 2010 COCA Convention.



MILWAUKEE, WI


Well those of you who had the fortune of visiting the Blau's house during the Milwaukee Convention know that Marsha is a World Class Chef. And, she didn't let us down at this gathering. Steaks, gourmet chicken, sausages and gourmet fruits and vegetables were just a small part of the menu. The comradery was great and did I mention all the homemade candy, pie, and cake we had for dessert. Thanks for a great evening!


2010 CONVENTION....

We are, with great excitement, looking forward to next years convention. Bill Petrochek has assured me this will be one great event. Included will be a great auction, two banquet dinners, approximately five to six home visits and many more surprises. Check the web site for more up to date info.....coinopclub.org.

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TALES OF THE HUNT

Hosted by Jack Freund

HURRAH, Phill Emmert from Colorado Springs has submitted this "Tale Of The Hunt". It is a very interesting "Tale" and I was going to title it "WHERE DO YOU FIND THESE THINGS..." but he already has incorporated that into the story itself - read on.....

"Where do you find these things?" That is the most common question I receive when I have had the opportunity to introduce someone new to my collection. In the 30 years I have been involved with the coin-op hobby, I realize now a dollar for each time I have answered that question could have added up to a tidy little sum.

But really – where indeed do we find these things?

I think typically my responses and yours as a collector would be similar. "Well I sometimes run ads that I get calls from. Or I go to auctions, flea markets. Yeah the antique malls and stores. Yes I hit some garage sales. On occasion pick up the Penny Saver newspaper. There are some regular hobby shows I attend. Oh, and of course, I have eBay as a favorite online stop."

Does that sound pretty familiar to most of you? Of course we always try to be as clever as possible to find that special location to search for machines where we hope and think no one else has. Or maybe go to another collectables event that you think there may be some peripheral interest. For me, also a car guy, I have come upon a few pieces at car swap meets over the years. Places where "guy stuff turns up." We each probably have our own examples like that and of course NOT always willing to share that information.

So where am I going with this you ask? Well that's the fun part of my "tale of the hunt."

Whenever I go out to the above mentioned places it is generally in hopes of stumbling upon a machine or something related to the hobby and all the associated stuff in my gameroom. That is except for a recent outing I had related to another collecting area of interest. Please let me explain.

For about 45 years I have been a Dodgers baseball fan – totally true to the blue. For a big portion of that time I have collected select Dodgers memorabilia that started with a pennant I got at my first major league baseball game with the Dodgers taking on the Cubs at Wrigley Field in the mid 60's. So my radar is generally on, looking for interesting Dodgers items that share

a portion of my gameroom with a variety of coin-op baseball games. A recent listing on Craig's List brought me in contact with a man selling off his deceased father's Dodgers memorabilia collection. Through some email exchanges with pictures and a few phone calls I was able to ascertain somewhat specifically the type of items in the collection. I had made him an offer on a significant number of items. My acquisition was based on the ability to view the items in person as a final confirmation. He accepted the offer with that condition being no problem.

We coordinated our schedule and the day arrived when we finally met and I got to see the collection first hand. The collection was in the basement of his mother's home and he met me there. They apparently had been in contact with an aggressive baseball memorabilia dealer that had attempted to lowball them. He explained it was not a pleasant experience and the dealer went home empty-handed. Our communiqué had been very positive and I enjoyed visiting with him and his mother to learn more about the father and hear various stories of his 30 some years of assembling this collection. This all taking place before I had a chance to see any of the collection.

Again I'm sure you are saying – "where is he going with this?" OK here is the payoff.

We go down into an unfinished area in the basement at his mother's house to see the collection. For me it is like being a 7 year old on Christmas morning getting to see all these great pieces of history. I asked about one item of specific interest that was not readily visible. He said "that is over here behind the door." He closed the door to the room we were in and behind the door was the item. But wait!! Right next to it was a Bat A Ball Junior on an original stand with an original marquee!! To say that was a surprise would be a complete understatement. In our conversation there had been no reference to this great piece during any of our communication. He explained because it was not a Dodgers item he did not think it would be of interest. That was

certainly a very logical thought that I agree made complete sense. But I am interested – so let's talk. We did and we worked out an incredibly fair price and the Bat A Ball came home with me that day along with a very nice allotment of choice original Dodgers memorabilia to add to my collection.

I did learn the collection was acquired from an antique store in LA that was closing back in the early 80's. The man that built the collection grew up in LA and brought his family to Colorado in the 90's. He continued to collect here but the majority of the collection was assembled in LA. And it would only be right that they explained to me he would regularly go to garage sales and flea markets, etc. looking for the items.

Thankfully, as coin-op "sportsmen", our hunting season is year round and does not require a license. How disappointing it would have been to have my "Dodgers license" pulled for that day and not been able to pull the trigger on the Bat A Ball.

I have sent along some pictures to show with a little TLC the found Bat A Ball is back to its former glory and now holds a proud place in my baseball room along with some pretty unique Dodgers memorabilia.

So this tale is concluding, but it does speak to the fact that there are surprises still out there for us all. Keep looking, keep talking to people, and keep hunting. Now when someone says, "where do you find these things?" I can respond "well I was in this basement looking at this baseball memorabilia collection and.....

Now it is your turn to "crow" about your good fortunes in the pursuit of coin-op or other collectables. Please send your "Tale" to Jack Freund, PO Box 4, Springfield WI 53176 or e-mail to jbgum@msn.com. Won't it be fun to see your story in print in an issue of the C.O.C.A magazine!



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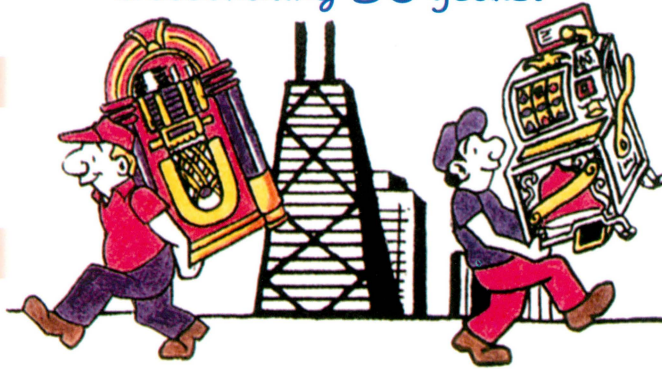
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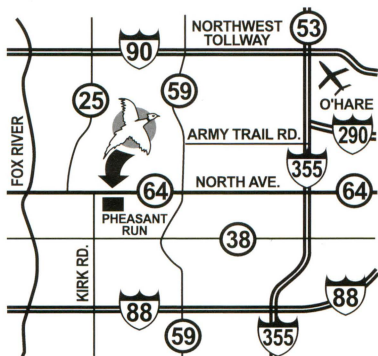


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LOOKING FOR INFORMATION

I recently won this vending machine from an auction in central Wisconsin. At first glance it appears to be an AD-LEE five cent E-Z. It has the E-Z tag on the front which appears to have been installed at the factory. But that is the end to any similarity to the usual Ad-Lee E-Z.

On page 6 of Silent Salesmen Too, a similar machine is pictured (upper left at top of page). The pictured machine has a large mouth front and a small side coin door. It has a VERTICAL coin entry. My machine has all of the same features, but they raise additional questions.

If Bill Enes was still with us, maybe he could answer these questions:

1. The vertical coin entry is made to accept a nickel, which is correct for an E-Z. While the machine will accept a nickel, it is impossible for the mechanism to work with anything but a PENNY!

Question... Does the machine pictured in Silent Salesmen Too work with a nickel or a penny?

2. The globe is a Columbus #9 with an original Columbus one cent ribbon decal. The center rod has been extended to accept the #9 globe.

Question... Did this machine originally have a #8 globe or possibly a football shaped one?

3. The lid is drilled and tapped to accept the E-Z marquee, but no marquee was present at purchase.

Question... Was there possibly a one cent E-Z? Could this possibly be a prototype machine?

4. Lastly, the base section of an E-Z is embossed on the underside indicating the machine was manufactured for the Ad-Lee Company. This machine has a smooth bottom with no embossing.

Question... Is this machine a prototype E-Z or just a weird machine? It appears to be a Columbus Model D, one cent machine. But if it is a Model D, why does it have a small side coin door and a vertical coin entry? If it is an E-Z, why does it have a one cent mechanism? Why isn't it stamped Ad-Lee Company on the base?

Lots of questions.

If anyone has any answers please contact Jack Freund at jbgum@msn.com or call me at 262-203-0036. While looking and waiting for answers, I will continue to admire and enjoy this puzzling machine.



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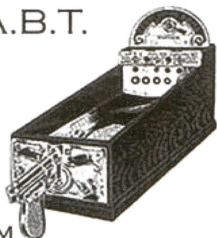
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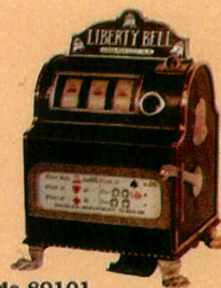
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The Bullseye, The Lucky Ball Gum and The Ball Gum Fortune Teller

by Bill Howard

Like the Sambo Fortune Teller and Hit Smiling Joe table model trade stimulators discussed in one of my recent C.O.C.A. articles and seen on page 131 of Every Picture Tells a Story, these three extremely rare Exhibit Supply wooden counter tops were among the finest available in the mid 1920's.

Exhibit Supply originally came to prominence between 1910-1925 as the supplier of huge outdoor machines popular in advertised outdoor events. Billboard ads during this period featured these examples. Eventually, not even such capitalistic innovations as rain insurance were able to overcome the economic uncertainties that eventually drove the giant outdoor exhibits to extinction. Exhibit Supply adjusted to this trend by turning to floor model fortune arcade and counter top machines to appeal to indoor entrepreneurs who were more space conscious. Accordingly, in the December 13, 1924 Billboard issue, Exhibit Supply in a full page ad, featured 5 new floor model card and fortune floor model arcade machines and 10 counter top machines as "new features and improvements for 1925 for machines that made the penny famous." These 10 newly introduced table machines included the Bullseye and Lucky Ball Gum Vender, two of the three machines featured in this article. The workmanship in these wood machines is outstanding. The more intricate and appealing of the two is the Bullseye. A penny played causes a gumball to

roll down a chute from which it is propelled onto the playing pinfield by a plunger on the side. The ball falls through the pinfield and either lands in payout slots resulting when winners are paid over the counter or falls to the trough at the bottom to be chewed by the loser. A cashbox inside receives the pennies and the gumballs of the winners and thus calculates and verifies the payouts. The less complicated Lucky Gum Ball Vender functions the same, but eliminates the plunger feature, so that the gum simply falls directly into the pinfield.

I believe the Bullseye was the forerunner to all the target" machines that propelled coins, not gumballs, in the late Twenties and Thirties, such as the jacks machines and Jennings Favorite, for example. More than a simple penny drop, the plunger feature gave the player more of a feeling of control over the gambling act and a feeling of injecting his own skill into the play.

To date I know of only two examples of the Bullseye. Mine, pictured below, is all original with all paper in tact, and is pictured on page 133 of Every Picture Tells a Story. I was able to acquire the Lucky Ball Gum Vender pictured below at the Fall 2007 Chicagoland Show thanks to the Oklahoma Flash, Don Mangels. It appears also to be in excellent original condition, and is the only example currently known to exist. Its market does not seem

to have lasted beyond early 1925, because the ad for Exhibit Supply in the Automatic Age February, 1926 issue replaced the Lucky gum Ball Vender with the Ball Gum Fortune Teller, also pictured below. This restored machine owned by friend Tom Gustwiller is the only example I know to have surfaced of this machine. The cabinet is basically the same as the other two Exhibits discussed above, but is not a gambling device. It has the appeal of suggesting who the player might be when he grows up depending on how the gumball falls among many famous individuals of the era pictured on the playfield. A gum is vended every play.

So, why are these good looking and well made machines so scarce? I believe the answer lies in what is so unique about all of them. It is the gumball that falls through the pinfield for the game to be played, and not the coin. And coins do not gum up, get squashed, get stuck via humidity, etc. Gumballs were rather meaningless features to trade stimulators that were present to keep the police away because the player was theoretically vended a product. Did the player really care about a stale, overpriced gumball for 1 cent? Goodness no. See Every Picture Tells a Story, p. 105. In other words, players played the gumball stimulators whether the gum was fouled up or not. BUT NOT THE THREE MACHINES PICTURED BELOW. When the gum gets fouled up you can't play, and the machine has to be shut down until the gum clog is cleaned and cured. Also, the Bullseyes and the Lucky gum Ball Vender are pure gambling machines. Imagine paying Exhibit for a gambling machine that spent half its lifetime "off the floor" because the gum is screwed up! Recall!! I suggest that the three rare machines pictured below were wonderful machines, but marketing nightmares with a very short life.

Marketing problems notwithstanding, these three wonderful and rare wood trade stimulators, along with Hit Smiling Joe and the Sambo Fortune Teller, put Exhibit Supply at the forefront of the manufacturer of 1920's trade stimulators that we covet as collectors today.



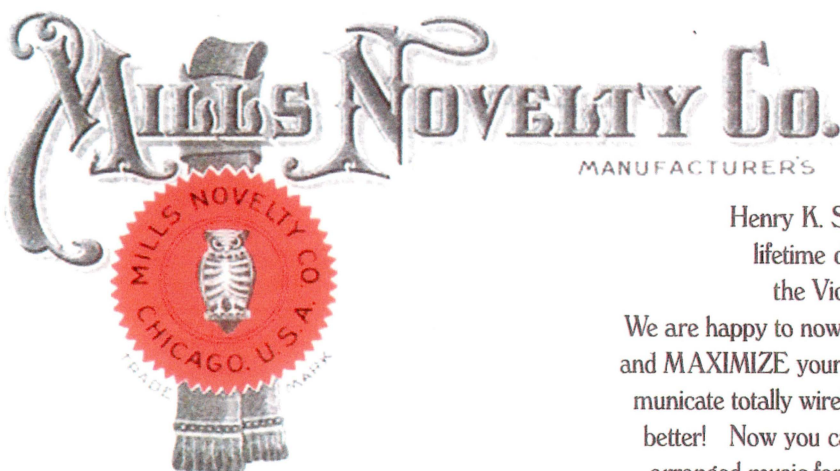
The Bullseye Vender



The Lucky Ball Gum Vender



The Ball Gum Fortune Teller



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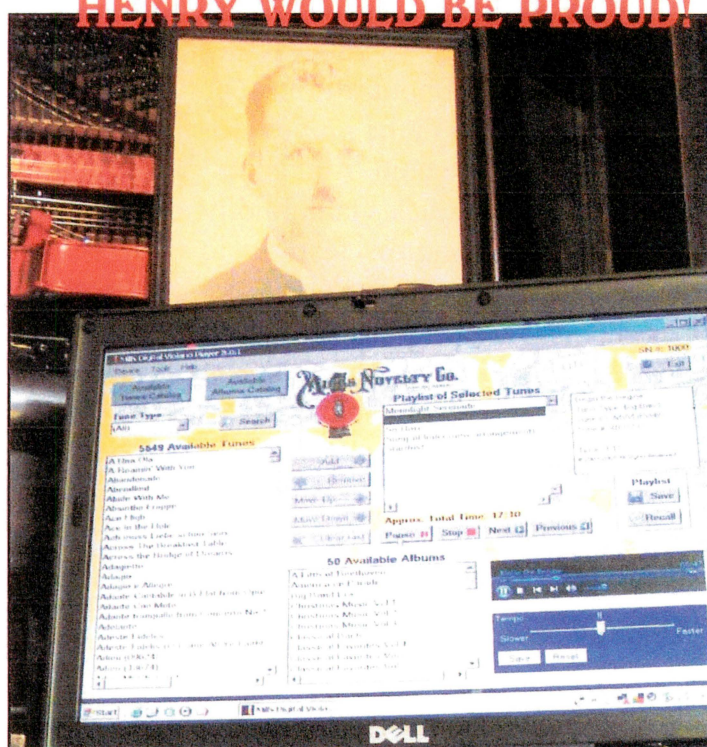
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IRA WARREN - COIN-OPS INC.

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THE GREAT GRAND-DAD OF COIN-OP GAMBLING MACHINES

One of the most remarkable and unexplainable facts relating to the hobby of collecting antique coin-operated gambling machines, is simply this...WHY WOULD ANY HUMAN BEING GAMBLE BY PLACING A COIN INTO A MACHINE AND PULL THE HANDLE?????

Most all collectors of coin-controlled gambling machines know the history of CHARLES FEY and the invention of the 3-wheel gambling pay-off SLOT machine of 1905 or 1906. BUT....very few collectors realize that the history of coin-operated gambling machines begins in 1890 (an amazing 15 years earlier) with an idea from the head of a 23 year old inventor named WILLIAM ROSENFELD.

The first patent of a coin-operated machine bears his company's name (AMUSEMENT MACHINE CO. NEW YORK) dated DECEMBER 16, 1890. The first CAST IRON coin operated machine is his one cent floor model poker machine. Over the next years, many other companies made similar floor model poker machines and most all saloons during the next 20 years had one on the floor----the MILLS NOVELTY CO. and THE CAILLE BROTHERS CO. also copied this style and made thousands of them for saloons all over the country.

It is this one machine that begins an industry that today rakes in BILLIONS of dollars from a very large global group of human beings --WHO-- still have no idea why they are compelled to place a coin into a gambling POKER machine and pull the handle.

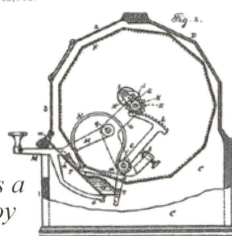
I first saw this early historic gem at a flea market in the early 1970's being sold to another collector --and thought nothing of the sale as machines were pretty easy to buy and sell in those days and it was just another machine---it went to California and I came across it again (about 20 years later). in 1994---I bought it and promptly sent photos to my friend



DICK BUESCHEL to see what he thought--- after all, it had a very early date in raised letters on the back of the top casting---DECEMBER 16, 1890---wow---imagine my surprise when he called and said that it was the earliest patent of all the gambling machines ever made-and that he was working on a new book and would use the information and photos--(you can see his detailed description and story on page 12 and 13 of his book VINTAGE TRADE STIMULATORS AND COUNTER GAMES---photos appear on page 190)---It is this great machine that started my collection of early CAST IRON floor and table model coin operated POKER machines----- AND ---to this day I still have NO IDEA what compels human beings to place a coin in a coin-operated poker machine and pull the handle.



(See Model.)
P. KENNEDY, Jr., O. J. DIBS & W. W. ROSENFELD.
ROTATING TOY.
No. 442,683. Patented Dec. 16, 1890.



Patented as a
Rotating Toy



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Some Favorites



RARE Caille Bros, circa 1904, Poker Machine, much earlier than the Jumbo Success Versions.



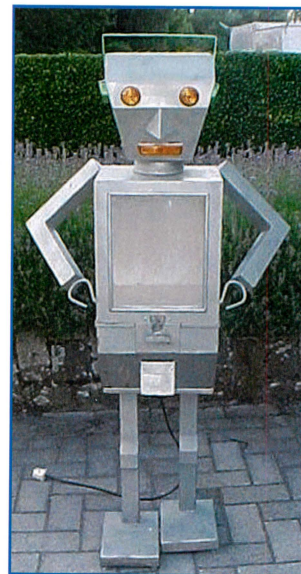
English Floor Model Palm Reader, circa 1928, Porcelain Top Sign, delivers a card with your fortune.



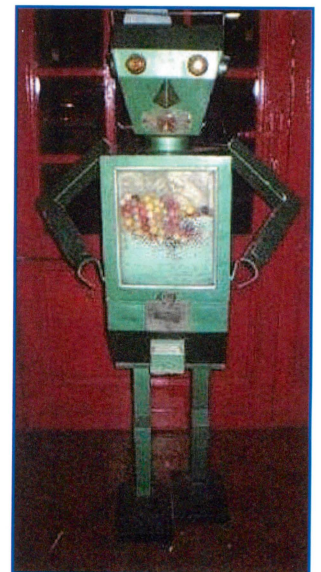
Canda Manufacturing Co., The Hamilton, circa 1905, One Cent Poker Machine.



Caille Bros, circa 1904 Ben Hur One Wheel Counter Top Gambling Machine, operated in Italy. Note the operator has placed a casting behind the handle with his name and address, original hasp locking on the back, seldom seen on counter models.



Fabulous ITALIEN Robot Gumball Machines, circa 1905, 5 feet tall.



ARCADE FIND

by Michael and Elaine Clark

MILLS NOVELTY COMPANY

Imperial Electric 1902



An air of magic and mystery surrounds the healing arts in any age and place, often marking the physician or healing machine as extraordinary with uncommon powers. So it was with the Mills Novelty Company Imperial Electric of 1902. For only a penny or a nickel, "Patients" could obtain a daily dose of "The Silent Physician" electricity for that "magnetic transfusion" when their batteries needed recharging to remedy a myriad of maladies such as "one night jags, headache, rheumatism, neuralgia, nervousness, debility, and all nervous disorders."

By grasping both handles and depressing the one on the right, the electrical current could be increased as desired and the "patient" could "take a shock and look pleasant." This cure-all electrical machine operates on two dry cell batteries and has been restored to original condition. Examples of this highly prized shocker could be found in saloons, drug stores, cigar counters, and restaurants.

It measures 12"x16-1/4"x23" and has Serial No. 2504.
Five are known to exist.

COLUMBIA MIRROR SCALE 1922

by Jim & Merlyn Collings

The Columbia Weighing Machine Co. was founded in Pittsburgh, PA in 1902. After relocating to Bronx, N.Y. they began vending this box-like scale in 1922 (photo 1). At this time the scale became known as the "Columbia Mirror." This was a very economical scale with a simple spring mechanism. The mirrored column coincided with the "Roaring Twenties." In 1928 Columbia Weighing created their own "Big Head" lollipop scale, which was fairly successful (photo 2). This lollipop scale version resembled the Caille Bros. "Aristocrat Deluxe."

Around this time several variations were created by the Columbia Weighing Machine Co.

One of these rare variations played chimes, similar to the "National Chime Scale." Another variation included a mahogany cabinet with a double mirror column and tin face (photo 3). (Photo 4) shows a Columbia scale with wood-grained metal sides and a white porcelain top, where the coin entry is located. The porcelain top is rather unique. The 4th variation was a Fortune Ticket Scale. This

variation also had a white porcelain top and a white porcelain card drop cup. The directions on this scale read as follows: 'FIRST DROP COIN IN SLOT, SEE WEIGHT ON DIAL' -- "SECOND STEP OFF OF SCALE" -- "THIRD PULL KNOB FULL LENGTH" with a red arrow pointing to a white porcelain knob (photo 5). Also on the scale is printed: "YOUR WEIGHT" "Also your FORTUNE on a card" "ONE CENT". Above these words is a round Red and Off-White decal which says: "COLUMBIA WEIGHING MACHINE CO. INC." "NEW YORK" "USA". This scale was probably Columbia's Deluxe model. Most of the "Columbia Mirror" scales had a tiled footplate with a rose-colored flowery design in the middle (photo 6).

We would like to thank our friend and prominent collector, Robert Kahn for his invaluable input.

The "Columbia Mirror" scale is affordable, reliable, and good-looking. You might want to consider it for your coin-op collection.



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

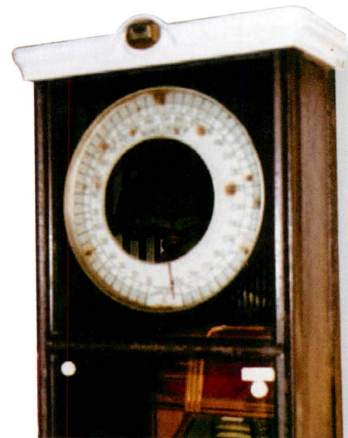


Photo 4



Photo 5

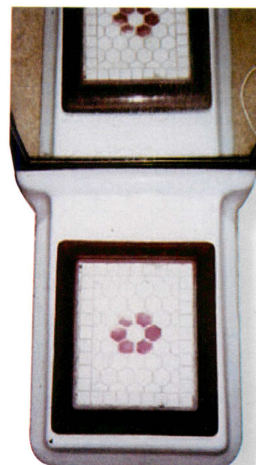


Photo 6

HAPPY SCALE COLLECTING!

CRICKETS & BULLFROGS

by Johnny Duckworth

The ornate floor machines from the turn of the century include two incredible models based on the coin drop technique. The first model to hit the local saloon in 1904 was the "Cricket" produced by the Mills Novelty Company. The Cricket was quickly copied (only months later) by the Caille Company, and they named their new machine the "Bullfrog". You can only imagine how frustrating that would have been to have someone not only copy your invention but then mock it as well. Caille had named it this way for the simple fact that Bullfrogs eat Crickets.

These overgrown coin drop machines are much like the smaller counter top models; produced from the late 1800's, all the way up through the 1930's. They were designed in the same fashion with a pin field under glass, coin chutes, pockets below, and a single chute for the fixed jackpot on the left side above the pin field.

The Cricket and Bullfrog are very exciting to play as you shoot your coin from the top right side of the machine on a spring loaded plunger into the playfield. You will then watch your coin fall through a maze of pins zigzagging back and forth, in hopes that it will land in one of the nine chutes at the bottom. If your coin does land into one of the chutes, a red flag will pop up in a round window above that chute, and then with the pull of the handle you will dump all the coins from the corresponding pocket into the payout cup below.



Caille Bullfrog



Mills Cricket

You can also aim for the fixed jackpot high on the left side, but you will need more than lady luck to hit it. This jackpot which is on both models has an adjustment screw in the back of the cabinet. When turned, it moves the coin entry in or out. When adjusted slightly out, a coin will slide through the slot. You might look at the coin entry from the front and think your coin will fit but only the proprietor would know the real answer.

These machines were set to rake off anywhere from 10%, all the way up to 75% of the money inserted in them depending on the greed of the operator. There are two metal flaps on the mechanism above each of the payout pockets which can divert coins to the front pockets or the rear cash box. As you can imagine no operator would want to give you your money back, so most of the coins were diverted into the cash box. I have also worked on a Mills Cricket where an operator had moved the pins around on some of the chute openings. This way the coin would no longer fit into those chutes as the operator wasn't satisfied with only earning 75% and he wanted even more.

These models were also found to be fairly simple to cheat and would need to be placed out in the open of an establishment to be watched. A dishonest player could use a simple iron slug in the machine and once shot into the playfield area they could use a strong magnet and control the slug under the glass and move it to the desired pocket below. A well trained thief

could empty your machine in no time if you weren't watching.

Cheating was a problem with all the upright slot machines of that era. Thieves would drill a very small inconspicuous hole through the cabinet in the edge of the wood around the wheel. Then while the wheel was in play they could use a stiff wire to push through the hole and stop the wheel on the color played. The problem with this type of machine however was most of the higher payouts were bugged and there was no way to stop the wheel on a bugged color.

The Mills Cricket and Caille Bullfrog play the exact same game even though they are dressed a little different. The Cricket has some fancy wood carvings on the front cabinet panels where the Bullfrog has added round columns with castings on the left and right side. The Bullfrog also has some ornate cast iron plates on each side of the cabinet. The plate on the right side is

all for show but the plate on the left side has a locking door to gain access to the cash box. Since the Bullfrog was the later of the two machines it does have some improvements. The upper jackpot can be emptied on the Bullfrog by turning a key in a lock on the left side of the cabinet where the Cricket would need the back door removed. One other improvement with the Bullfrog was you can have a coin loaded and played by only using the plunger; this is also spelled out and underlined on the instruction card. The Cricket requires a pull of the handle to load the coin and then the plunger to fire it across the playfield.

Collectors hang onto these old floor machines as they are very entertaining to play and they don't turn up very often. If you ever get the chance to play one, you should try your luck. You will find it very hard to stop and walk away after the first coin is played in one of these great machines.



Bullfrog Coin Head



Cricket Coin Head



Bullfrog Jackpot Release



Cricket Jackpot Release



Bullfrog Jackpot Interior



Bullfrog Jackpot



Cricket Jackpot



Bullfrog Front Plate



Cricket Front Plate



Bullfrog Side Plate



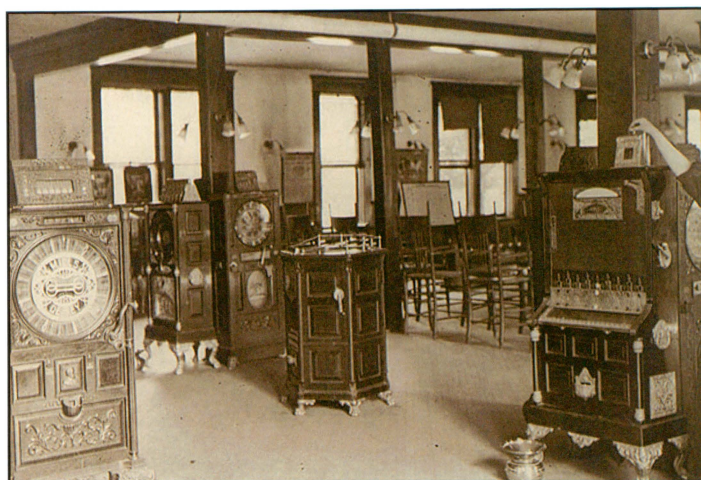
Bullfrog Cash Box Door



Cricket Cash Box Door



Bullfrog on Left



Bullfrog on Right

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ALMOST MISSED TREASURE FIND

by HONEST JOHN (STEVE LYNCH)

A few years ago here in Southern Idaho, another couple joined my wife and I for a day trip to famous Sun Valley resort area. They were having their annual “Antique Shows” throughout the valley each Labor Day Weekend.

We left early from our home so we could be there looking when the vendors opened at 9:00 am. There were various vendor shows throughout the area so we started at the first one we came to. I purchased a few small miscellaneous items and then we ventured on to the next stop which was a small vendor set up outside their home, more like a garage sale. I came across an unusual gumball machine that had been left there on consignment by the homeowner’s friend. I could see that it was a nice original machine and really didn’t look “messed with”. After looking the machine over, I noted two locks and after inquiring with the vendor who contacted the owner by phone, there were no keys for this machine. It didn’t have any gumballs to see if it worked, nor would the locked back door come off so I could examine the inside to see how complete it was.



Not being a gumball machine collector, I was not sure how much money was really fair for this machine knowing there were no keys and how actually complete the machine was inside. I decided to “think” on the machine as we moved on to the other shows. I bought some NOS 50’s toys for my grandson, a slot machine for parts, a few radios, etc. at various places. We had a nice dinner at our favorite place in Ketchum (just 2 miles from Sun Valley) at the famous “**Pioneer Saloon**” where they serve the best Prime Rib I have

ever consumed. This was the grand finale after a long day before we headed home.

I just couldn’t get that gumball machine out of my mind so I decided to make a serious pass at it on the way home. It was getting dark but the man was still outside at his house with a few people still looking. I didn’t see the gumball machine!!! I asked about it and the man said he had many inquiries about the machine but indicated the owner

had picked it up about an hour before I arrived, but thought maybe he had it sold to a collector. I tried to call him but no answer. As I arrived back to my SUV empty handed, my wife and friends asked me about the machine. I explained the situation and that I was going home empty handed when it came to that machine. My wife lectured me because she now knew she was going to have to hear about my "mistake" for the next few hours as they were all in a "captive" stage driving home.

During the next few months, I tried to research out this machine but could find nothing on it. Most people had never even heard of **West Coast Novelty Company** who manufactured this machine. On all the trips I have made to various shows, Chicagoland, etc., I never remembered ever seeing anything like it.

As we always do, we ventured back up to the valley for the Annual Memorial Day Show as they also have a nice two-day collector car auction in addition to the antique shows. I started at the usual stops on our route and then stopped at the same house of the vendor that had the gumball machine earlier that summer. My heart started pounding again as I rounded the corner of the house where

the machine was just a few months ago and... there it was again!!! Luckily, the owner was still there, he had just dropped it off again not five minutes before I pulled in. We chatted awhile and he indicated he knew nothing about the machine other than he bought it at a garage sale. He, again, indicated there were no keys for the machine and really had no way of knowing how complete it was. I decided that I was going to take a chance on this machine as it was very cool looking. My gut instinct kept telling me to quit screwing around and buy the darn thing. After a little negotiation, we arrived at a price that was even less than the price on it a few months ago.

After getting it home, I did a light cleaning of the machine and then took it to my local locksmith who made a few keys for each of the original locks. My locksmith knows how anal I am with original locks and not to mess with or damage any of them. He called me within an hour and said he was done. I raced down to pick up my machine, drove home, and quickly began to open up the back end to see how good a deal I got.

Nothing but SMILES --- it was complete!!!

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New Find in Stamp Vending

by Melvin Getlan

Some of our fellow collectors might know that I have been collecting US stamps for over 60 years. Coin-op collecting for over 35 years. Stamp vending machines (early ones) tie two of my collecting areas together.

*The vending machine in question is also shown in Bill Enes's book *Silent Salesman Two*. I purchased it from a fellow collector early this year. It might be the only one known.*



A patent application for a vending machine was applied for on February 6, 1907 by W.C. Briggs of Winston Salem, NC and National Stamp Vending Co (NSVC) of Fayetteville, NC. Patent number 917997 was granted on April 13, 1909. The device could be used as a stamp or ticket vending machine, (Figure 1).

Though this stamp vending machine was not specifically mentioned in George Howard's book "The Stamp Machines and Coiled Stamps", it is a coin operated vending machine that used a rolled strip of "holders" or "sections" or "pockets" with folded flaps to encase the stamps being sold. Prior to this find the only known vending machine using this type of dispensing method was manufactured by the United States Automatic Vending Co (USAV) of New York, NY. It used the USAV "pocket" strip. A couple of other companies used an envelope containing stamps that was pushed out of a machine after paying money.

The USAV "pocket" was a similar design that was developed for use as a subway ticket vending machine. The company had their own particular style of "pocket" for the ticket machines that they had in inventory and it was used for stamps when the subway ticket machines were rejected.

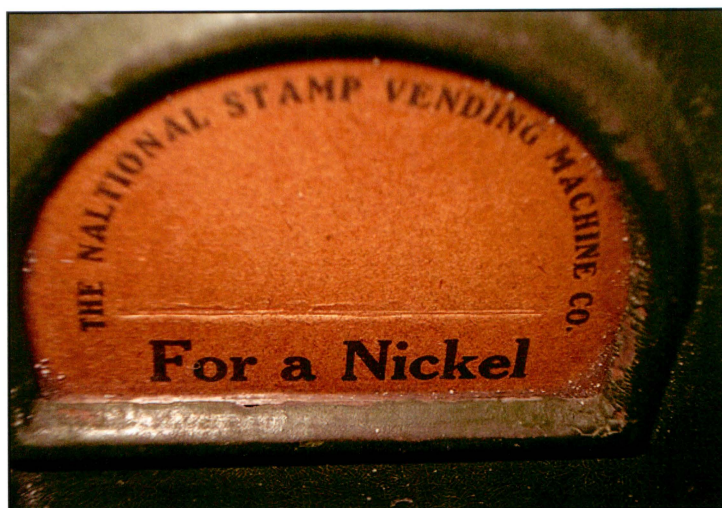
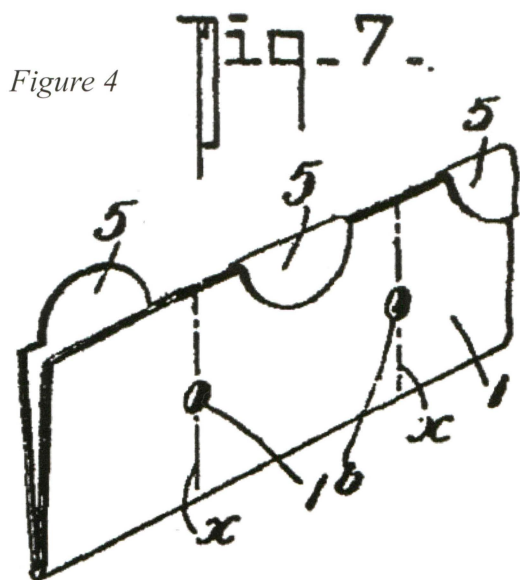
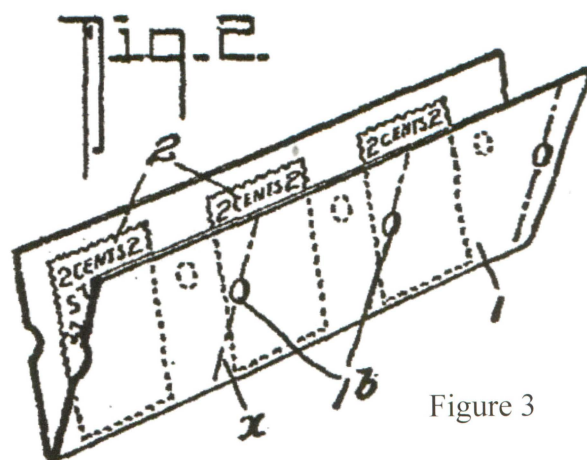
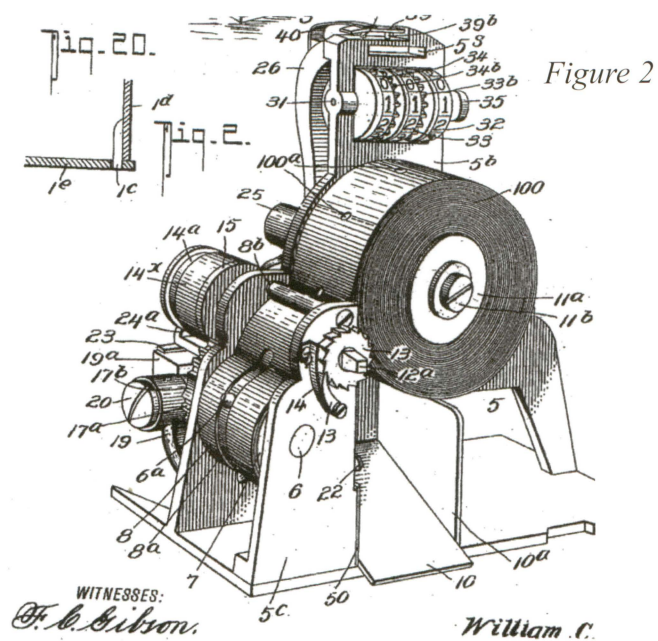


Figure 5

NSVC's design was specifically made for their machine as described in the patent papers shown in this article, (Figures 2, 3 and 4)

Figure 6

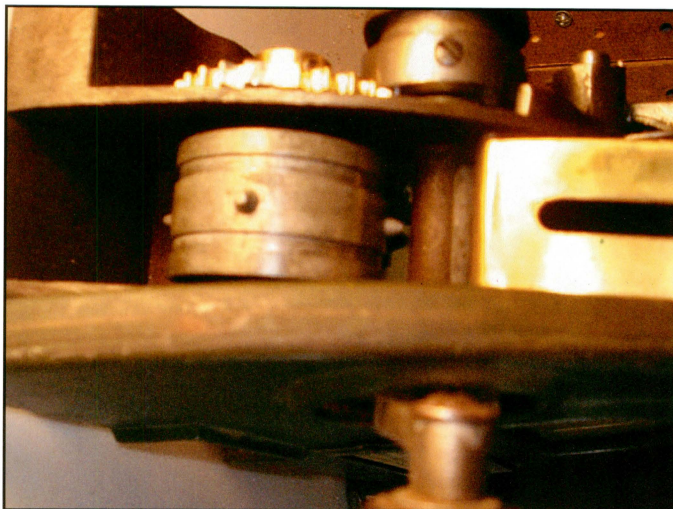
There is only one of these machines currently known and only some of the advertising signage exists for the machine. Photographs, patent diagrams and operational details follow. Besides the name of the manufacturer, it also has the name of one of the vending companies operating the machine. This one was The Star Stamp Vending Machine Company, 407-9 Bullitt Bldg, Philadelphia, PA, (Figure 6).



Note the large advertising frame attached to the top of the machine in Fig 1. This was used to sell advertising space to various businesses thereby allowing the vending company and the store keeper to sell the stamps at face value as a service to the customers. This machine might have sold 5¢ in stamps for a nickel. The company could also sell advertising space on each “pocket”. Naturally without the advertising income the operator would sell stamps at the currently vended market value in 1909 and later.

Since there is currently no known sample of a “pocket”(a difficult search), I have had to take measurements of the working mechanism and operational systems of the machine. When a nickel is inserted and the hand crank is turned it will advance a main cam. On this cam there are 4 tapered posts, centered on the cam, spaced approximately 36 millimeters (mm) apart. Each post is 4 mm high, 5 mm wide at the base and 2 mm at the top, (Figure 7).

Figure 7



The sidewise strip has to have a center perforated hole separating each “pocket” which must be at least 5 mm. The length of each “pocket” is 36 mm and 26 mm high. This size “pocket” is enough to place either a regular or commemorative issued stamp. When the stamps were placed in each “pocket”, a single flap was then folded over the edges to contain the items in the “pocket”, (Figures 3 and 4). The strip had to be rolled onto a bobbin and placed in the machine. It is unknown what number of “pockets” would fit in the machine.

After the strip was advanced one “pocket” length, a knife would be released to cut the strip and dispense the “pocket”.

I believe it will be very hard to find the “pocket” used for this machine even it has copy printed on it.

If anyone else has further information on this device, please let me know.

Reference:

1. George Howard, *The Stamp Machines and Coiled Stamps*, 1943, H.L.Linquist Publications, New York, NY



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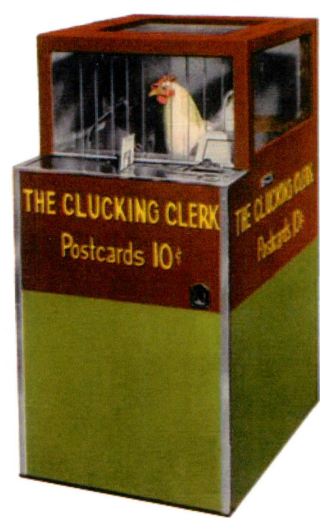
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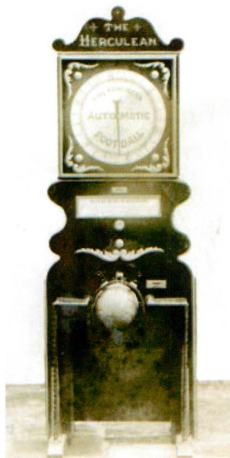


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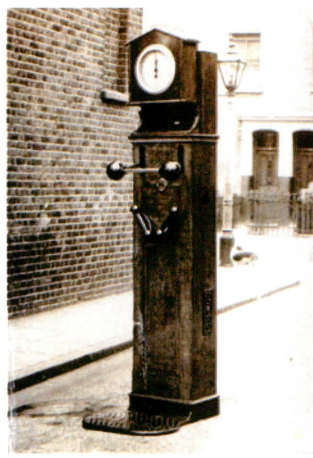


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THE JENNINGS ZIG-ZAG

By Johnny Duckworth



A good motto for collectors of coin-operated machines might be, "Expect the unexpected." To the delight of everyone, on a regular basis, long-forgotten or even completely unknown devices turn up. This is about such an instance.

Some time ago there was an article written looking for the Jennings "Zig Zag" slot machine but one had never surfaced. For all intents and purposes this countertop machine, never plentiful even in its own era, had gone the way of the dodo bird and the three-cent first class mail postage stamp.

Hooray! The search is now over, in the spring of 2009 the slot machine pictured turned up in Florida. The machine was found by a heating and air conditioning contractor while installing duct work in the attic of an old home. It was quickly purchased. Soon, it found a new home in Ohio where several other "one of a kind" machines are hiding away in a private collection.

The Zig Zag may remind you of another model made by the O.D. Jennings & Company called the Rockaway. It would be hard to mistake the two machines because of the blue painted pin field and the large plate shouting out the words "Zig Zag." The machine has a run-

way so the coins will zigzag under the glass where the Rockaway had a rocking disc. The machine will also give your coin back on a winning play in the confection vender model equipped with the coin refund feature. Of course, on the confection vender few people actually wanted to get a sweet after they played their one-cent piece. The ideal object was to have it fall into the right spot and earn a cash reward. However, laws being what they were, any number of slot machines were also candy vendors. The Zig Zag model shown is in a birch cabinet where the Rockaway models seem to be made of oak.

To play this machine you drop a "penny" in the slot. The coin will fall down and come to rest at the start of the runway. Then you have to push the plunger down on the top right of the cabinet and release the coin. The penny will roll down the runway to the left, turn the corner and head back to the right. You can release the coin anywhere on the pin field by lifting your thumb off the plunger. This is the "skill" part that kept patrons trying and trying again. The coin starts out at the top with a nice gentle roll, but it picks up speed the farther you let it ride. The machine has five pockets below which you are hoping your penny will fall into for a winner.

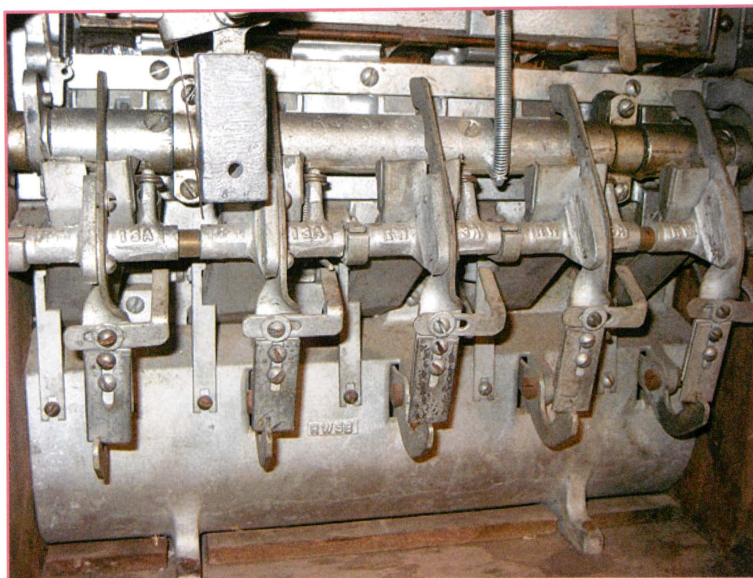
One thing that makes this machine so unique is that you get your coin played back if you win. I have worked on several coin drop machines including the larger models such as the Caille Bullfrog and Mills Cricket. With all the other machines your winning coin played will always fall into the cash box in the rear. You will notice in the photo with the Zig Zag mechanism all 5 chutes have a corresponding ramp in which the winning coin will slide into the front jackpot. You can also see in the close up photo of the front jackpots where the winning coin would slide out.

The advertisement pictured was written many years ago in one of the coin-op magazines with both models shown. The model which was found is shown at the top, and it also has the jackpot feature which is shown below. Keep your eyes open as more machines are still out there waiting to be discovered....

What will be next?



Back



Mech



Label Inside



Front
Jackpot

JENNINGS "ZIG-ZAG"

Here's Another New Money Maker, Made in Two Styles

UNKNOWN MACHINE?

This month's cover features the O.D. Jennings "ZIG-ZAG". I came across this ad while looking through some old correspondence with Dave Evans.

Apparently this is a yet to be discovered machine. No one seems to have one.

Size and appearance seem very similar to the Rock-A-Way. I suspect that this machine, along with the Comet Fortune Teller were companion machines.

If anyone out there has any more information, or an actual machine, I'm sure our readers would enjoy hearing about it.

As far as value, I'd place it pretty high. Considering the price a nice Rock-A-Way will bring, and considering the rarity, I would expect that either of these machines in very good to excellent shape should bring a minimum of \$800 to \$1200 very quickly.

Ad Credit: Dave Evans

"ZIG-ZAG" CONFECTION VENDER WITH COIN REFUND FEATURE

Code Name: ZIGRE
Made in 1c play.
Size: 15x12x19 1/2 inches.

The Zig-Zag Profit-Sharing Vender differs from the Zig-Zag Confection Vender in that it has the five jackpots and does not have the coin refund feature. By skillful manipulation of the Zig-Zag runway player tries to drop coin in any one of five pockets. When coin enters pocket, contents of jackpot is delivered to player. Vends ball of gum for each penny played. Made in 1c play. Size: 15x12x19 1/2 inches.

The "Zig-Zag" Confection Vender is two popular money-makers built into one machine. By skillful manipulation of the Zig-Zag runway by means of a button on top of cabinet, player may guide coin to drop in any one of five pockets at bottom of pinboard. If coin enters pocket it is returned to player. Machine may also be operated as a jackpot. A simple change of the mechanism causes coins to accumulate in jackpot at bottom of machine. When plate is removed these jackpots are in full view of players. Contents of jackpot is delivered to player when coin drops into pocket immediately above jackpot. Vends a ball of gum for each penny played.

- CLASSIFIED ADS -

WANTED: MILLS FREE PLAY MINT VENDOR.
See picture on Page 269 of Collector's Treasury of Antique Slot Machines, Peppi Bruneau, 145 Robert E. Lee Blvd., #206, New Orleans, LA 70124. Phone: (504) 288-1200; Fax: (504) 333-6736; Email: cebruneau@cs.com

I HAVE SOME VERY NICE PULVERS WITH VERY NICE PRICES. ALSO, A NICE SELECTION OF ABOVE AVERAGE VENDING AND TRADE STIMULATORS PRICED RIGHT! PHOTOS AVAILABLE. LOOK FOR ME AT CHICAGOLAND.

Jack Freund, P.O. Box 4, Springfield, WI 53176. Phone (262) 203-0036; Email: JBGum@msn.com

WANTED: Early Tall Case and Wood Pulver Machines. Advance, Circus and L-Shaped Gum Machines. Contact: Ron Pulver, W3524 Raddatz Rd., Cambria, WI 53923. Phone: (608) 225-9702, rspulv@yahoo.com.

WANTED: HAVE CASH, WILL TRAVEL. COLLECTOR LOOKING TO PURCHASE EARLY VENDING, GUMBALL AND PEANUT MACHINES AND UNUSUAL COUNTER-TOP MACHINES. ALSO LOOKING TO BUY SPORTS RELATED COUNTER MACHINES. TOP CASH PAID.
Paul Hindin, 3712 West Scenic Ave., Mequon, WI 53092; Phone: (262) 242-3131 or (414) 559-9681.

Email: BedVibr8or@aol.com **SEE ME AT: drcoinop.com**

WANTED: Golf Ball Slot and Kitty Slot Machine. Also buying German, French and English choc. and gum machines.
Paul Hindin, 3712 West Scenic Ave., Mequon, WI 53092; Phone: (262) 242-3131 or (414) 559-9681 or
Email: BedVibr8or@aol.com **SEE ME AT: drcoinop.com**

FOR SALE: Back issues of C.O.C.A. magazine. \$6.00 each, delivered.
C.O.C.A., 3712 West Scenic Ave., Mequon, WI 53092.

FOR SALE: Beautiful copy of the original Mansfield Mirrored Marquee with clip-on attachment. Complete your machine and greatly increase the value. Total cost with priority shipping and insurance is \$199.95.
Paul Hindin, 3712 West Scenic Ave., Mequon, WI 53092; Phone: (262) 242-3131 or (414) 559-9681 or
Email: BedVibr8or@aol.com; **SEE ME AT: drcoinop.com**

WANTED: Ryede combination vendor or an individual that could supply a picture of the mechanism.
Ron Pulver, rspulv@yahoo.com.

AntiqueSlotMachines.com is ready to welcome you to the wonderful world of serious vintage slot machine collecting. I am not a parttime dealer. Buy or sell with full confidence.
Bob Levy, 2802 Centre Street, Pennsauken, NJ 08109 or
Phone: (856) 663-2554

FOR SALE: Replacement back doors for Yellow Zeno machines. Pulver doors, sold out. and Zeno \$100. Very limited. Free shipping in U.S.
Paul Hindin, 3712 West Scenic Ave., Mequon, WI 53092; Phone: (262) 242-3131 or (414) 559-9681 or
Email: BedVibr8or@aol.com **SEE ME AT: drcoinop.com**

PAYING TOP DOLLAR for Counter Top Cigar Cutters. Only interested in cutters that advertise cigars, both single and double cut, with or without lamps.
Contact: Paul Hindin, (414) 559-9681 or
Email: BedVibr8or@aol.com

WANTED MOST DESPERATELY: A nickel overflow coin tube (part nos. 351D and 531 csp) for a 1925 Mills Front O.K. Mint Vender. See page 156 of my book entitled *Slot Machines*. Only need this one part to complete my restoration of this machine.

Marshal Fey.
Email: LibBelBks@aol.com or Call: (775) 826-2607.

FOR SALE: Reproduction copies of the following items:
1) All paper for the WADDELL BICYCLE WHEEL - \$60 set.
2) Marquee playfield for PEO & GOTTLIEB countertop baseball games - \$25 each.
3) E-Z marquees (numbers game or baseball) - \$8.00 each.
4) Rubber gaskets for all Columbus machines - \$2.50 each.
5) Back door locks for wooden Zenos - \$30 each.
All prices plus postage.

Jack Freund, P.O. Box 4, Springfield, WI 53176 or
Email: jbgum@msn.com. Phone: (262) 203-0036.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: JANUARY 8, 2010



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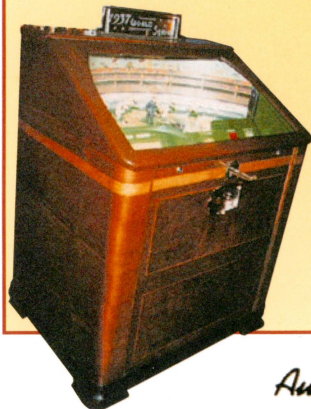
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Baseball Games



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or Peep Shows,
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of Strength

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